

SOME NEW INJURIOUS PHYTOPHAGA FROM AFRICA.

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Family CRIOCERIDAE.

Crioceris viridissima, sp. n. (fig. 1).

Subcylindrical, brilliant metallic green to coppery green, with legs and three last ventral segments fulvous, and a large fulvous spot on vertex of head.

Length, 6 mm.

Head about as broad as prothorax, brilliant metallic green, with scattered punctures and a large fulvous patch on vertex, sulcate between the eyes on apical half of fulvous patch. *Antennae* stout, with first four joints with a slight metallic tinge, the seven apical joints dull black. *Prothorax* brilliant metallic green, slightly longer than broad, sides slightly rounded, strongly punctate, with a fovea at middle near base. *Scutellum* triangular, green. *Elytra* brilliant metallic green, punctate-striate, slightly shagreened, more than twice as long as broad, parallel-sided and rounded at apex, broader than base of prothorax. *Legs* fulvous, anterior pair in the ♂ with the tibiae more bent inwards than in ♀. *Underside* with sternum metallic green, rugosely punctured; ventral segments of abdomen with the first two metallic green, apical segments fulvous, sometimes showing traces of metallic green, and apical margin of second fulvous, with rather long scattered pubescence on all the segments.

KENYA COLONY: Nakuru, 4.xi.1918, 7 specimens (*S. Colclough*); Migori Valley, S. Kavirondo, 4,200 ft., v.1911, 1 specimen (*S. A. Neave*).

Specimens were forwarded by Mr. T. J. Anderson, Chief of Division of Entomology, Kenya Colony, with the information that they were attacking asparagus.

This new species is a true *Crioceris*, approaching in structure more nearly to European forms such as *C. 14-punctata*, Scop., than any African species at present described. It is probably most nearly allied to *C. nigropunctata*, Lacord., from South Africa, amongst the African species.

Family HALTICIDAE.

Cercyonia citri, sp. n. (fig. 2).

Elliptical, convex, black or bluish-black, nitid; head and thorax finely punctured; elytra bluish-black, with a fulvous patch on basal half of each, punctate-striate; underside fulvous, legs darker. *Length*, 4-5 mm.

Head black, finely punctured, with two fulvous spots at base touching anterior margin of thorax. *Antennae* inserted wide apart near the inner circumference of the eyes, reaching just beyond base of thorax, first four joints fulvous, joint 1 equal to 2 and 3 combined, 5-10 more triangular, with apical half of each darker, apical joint acuminate. *Prothorax* black, finely and evenly punctured, more than twice as broad as long, with sides margined (margin in some fulvous) and narrowed towards apex; anterior angles produced and acute, posterior margin broadly produced at the middle. *Scutellum* triangular, black (in some reddish). *Elytra* bluish-black, very little broader than base of thorax, about three times as long as thorax, subcylindrical and narrowed posteriorly; punctate-striate, more feebly towards apex,

with the intervals finely punctured; a fulvous patch on each extending from below shoulder to middle, not touching suture or lateral margin. *Legs* variable, fulvous to almost black, with femora darker; posterior pair incrassate; a small spine at apex of hind tibiae. *Underside* fulvous; sternum strongly punctured; first ventral segment more strongly punctured, the rest with scattered punctures and slightly pubescent.

Male with last ventral segment more sinuate.

Easily distinguished from *C. nigricollis*, Jac., by its larger size and markings, which are constant in over 200 specimens before me.

GOLD COAST: Aburi, 8.xi.1916 (*W. H. Patterson*); Ojesu, Ashanti (*A. E. Evans*).

Reported by Mr. W. H. Patterson, Government Entomologist, Gold Coast, as a serious pest of all young citrus plants, and widely distributed in the Colony.

***Argopistes oleae*, sp. n. (fig. 3).**

Rounded, convex; head and prothorax black, finely punctured; elytra yellow, with suture and lateral margins black, each with a black vitta; underside fulvous. Length, 4.50 mm.

Head nearly hidden in the prothorax, from base to between eyes black, finely punctured, front and clypeus flavous. *Antennae* inserted close together, first four joints flavous, first joint very long and nearly equal to the three following together,

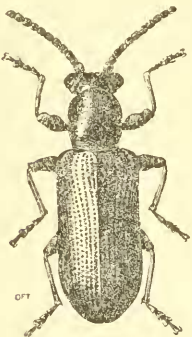


Fig. 1. *Crioceris viridissima*, sp. n.

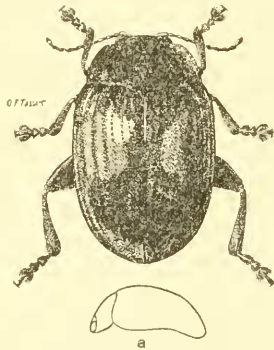


Fig. 2. *Cercyonia citri*, sp. n.; a, lateral view.

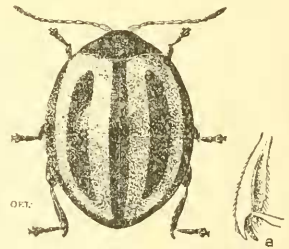


Fig. 3. *Argopistes oleae*, sp. n.; a, apex of hind tibia.

last seven joints slightly broader and fuscous. *Prothorax* strongly transverse, black, finely punctured, about three times as broad as long; sides obliquely converging and slightly rounded from base to apex, and deflexed; anterior angles obtuse and fulvous, posterior margin sinuate. *Scutellum* black, triangular. *Elytra* yellow, with sutural borders and lateral margins black, each with a black vitta extending almost from base to apex; finely punctured, longer than broad. *Legs*: front and intermediate pairs flavous, hind pair with the femora strongly incrassate, black with basal part flavous, their tibiae fulvous, broadly dilated, and deeply sulcate, dentate and terminated by two spurs (fig. 3, a); posterior tarsi with first joint longer than those of the front and middle pairs. *Underside* fulvous; ventral segments strongly punctured, with apical segment longer than the two preceding.

CAPE PROVINCE: 3 ♀♀, Cape Town, 9.iii.1918.

The larvae are recorded by the Division of Entomology, Pretoria, as mining in the leaves of olive trees.

This species is a remarkable mimic of the African Coccinellid genera, *Dysis* and *Alesia*.

Argopistes sexvittatus, sp. n. (fig. 4).

Rounded, convex, testaceous; prothorax testaceous, finely and closely punctured; elytra fulvous, a little more strongly punctured than prothorax, sutural margin black, lateral margins broadly testaceous, with inner margin narrowly black from base of suture to apex, a narrow black vitta down middle of each elytron; underside fulvous. Length, 4.40 mm.

The ♂ only differs in its slightly smaller size and ventral segments, the last ventral being very large, strongly incised and deflexed, and longitudinally sulcate (fig. 4, a); the 2nd, 3rd and 4th segments are much contracted in the middle.

This species is closely allied to *A. oleae*, sp. n., but differs in having the head and prothorax testaceous, the elytral punctures are slightly stronger, the lateral margins are broadly testaceous, with the inner margins black, and the elytral vittae are narrower and more sinuate.

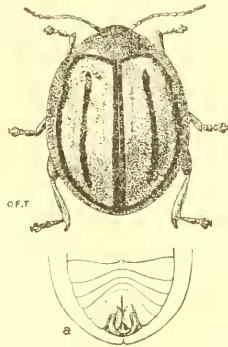


Fig. 4. *Argopistes sexvittatus*, sp. n.; a, venter.

CAPE PROVINCE: Stellenbosch, 11.x.1920, 2 ♂♂ and 1 ♀ on wild olive, 3 ♀♀ vars. (Dr. C. K. Brain). NATAL: Potgieter's Farm, i.1900, 1 ♀ (*H. Bell-Marley*). ORANGE FREE STATE: Bloemfontein, 6.ii.1916, 2 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀ (*J. C. Faure*).

The species is a leaf-miner on wild olive.

The six specimens from Bloemfontein do not vary *inter se*, but differ from the type from Stellenbosch in the black line of the lateral margins extending from the apex to little more than a third of the lateral margin. Three specimens collected by Dr. C. K. Brain at Stellenbosch, 11.x.1920, all females, have the elytra and prothorax blue-black, with a broad testaceous border. These are evidently only a variety of *A. sexvittatus*, as I can find no structural difference.

This species has stood in the British Museum collection since 1867 under the MS. name of *Pseudococcinella sexvittata*, Chev., and I have thought it better to retain the specific name, as it has probably been widely circulated. This specimen came from the Hamlet Clark collection, which contained Chevrolat's collection.